

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #6
May 8, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE

Human disease: On May 5, the WHO updated the count of human cases to 206, including 114 deaths. The one additional case and death recorded since the previous week were both from Egypt.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- The next Pandemic Flu Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled in June 28th at Expressions/Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center.
- VDH continues a series of Community Based Emergency Response System (CBERS) Isolation and Quarantine Exercises. In addition to health participants, emergency management, law enforcement, judicial / legal, medical examiner, hospitals and mental health partners have participated.
- Initial Planning Conference for October 2006 Statewide Pandemic Flu Exercise will be conducted via Video Teleconference on May 12.
- Reminder: On May 9, ABC will air a made-for-TV movie which suggests a Richmond businessman as "patient zero" who infects several dozen airline passengers, scattering around the globe in the network's avian influenza movie.
- Health districts continue community outreach and coordinated Pandemic Flu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Offices

• Central Region

- The Central Region Health Directors and Central Region Staff held a briefing and problem solving session with the Central Region Hospital executives.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

• Loudoun

- Discussion with CAO's office regarding solutions for county COOP, including IT capabilities and teleworking
- Loudoun Mental Health/Mental Retardation/Substance Abuse Services arranged satellite link to 5/11/06 video conference on Ethics and Pandemic Flu.
- Set up meeting with county Emergency Manager to review priorities for PanFlu planning
- Cover letter and copies of the VDH Panflu DVD sent to all remaining Loudoun incorporated Towns (Lovettsville, Hillsboro, Hamilton, Purcellville, Middleburg, Round Hill).
- Leesburg Town Manager met with other Loudoun Town Managers to discuss PanFlu planning
- Presentations to Loudoun Clerical Staff and Rural Environmental Health Staff on new procedure and documentation for dead bird surveillance
- Presentation to Chief and field supervisors of Loudoun Animal Control regarding avian flu surveillance
- Presented basics of PanFlu and quarantine to State Senator Mark Herring.
- Established contact and discussed date for PanFlu education to Corporate Health Care staff.
- Spoke with dentist from Sterling interested in opportunities to help with PanFlu planning activities, and education for her staff.
- Updated development timeline for the Fall PanFlu exercise.
- Met with the law enforcement core group to confirm the Sheriff's Office support for the exercise, to review the exercise scenario and goals, and to discuss the current law enforcement core group task list.
- Met with a Sheriff's Office Special Operations rep and the Loudoun County Emergency Management Coordinator to review the Statewide exercise in general, to review the Health District's current SNS Receipt and Distribution Plan for further updating, and to discuss Loudoun's plan to exercise the pick up, transport, and security of the SNS/MI from a central RSS in NoVA to the hospital and various dispensing site locations in Loudoun County.
- Participated in a Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWWOG) Bioemergency Planners (BEPS) meeting that included a review of exercise goals, a discussion of declaring and dividing common NCR objectives for the exercise, and NCR (MD & DC) participation in the exercise.
- Communicated potential issues surrounding the 5/9/06 ABC airing of "Fatal Contact: Birdflu in America" to ALERT and LPFPTF teams. Director to be media POC.

• Richmond

- Established locations and times for recruitment meetings for Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). We soon will begin the promotional campaign.

- Along with the other central region districts, participated in the PanFlu summit for regional hospitals. Meeting was held at the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission on 05/05/2006.
- Participated in the Planning for Disaster Symposium presented by the Office of Minority Business, City of Richmond. Discussed the need for PanFlu planning and the implications that a pandemic would have on businesses. Meeting was well attended.
- Conducted monthly ESF-8 meeting for the City of Richmond. Central Region Epidemiologist discussed the Flu Surge software package. Decided that with some additions, this group could and would serve as the Pandemic Flu Advisory Committee. Representatives from The Greater Richmond Red Cross distributed new educational tools: a pandemic flu fact sheet and Home Care for pandemic Flu, now available to the public.
- Met with Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority. They will set up a meeting in June for the Tenant Councils in which the Health Department will address PanFlu and self care.
- **Hampton**
 - MMRS was approached to review the Pandemic Self Assessment Tool.
 - City government attended Isolation and Quarantine (I&Q) workshop and are now interested in developing a PanFlu Planning group. First meeting, scheduled May 31.
 - Hampton School System (Nursing and security/administration) wants to meet on PanFlu planning.
- **Chesterfield**
 - Chesterfield staff met with the Chesterfield County Administrator and briefed him on proposed pandemic influenza planning activities. Plans were made for a community advisory group and a government task force/work group.
- **Southside**
 - The Southside Health District Emergency Planner was nominated to the Halifax County Local Emergency Planning Committee and this was approved by the Halifax Board of Supervisors.
- **Henrico**
 - PanFlu presentation to Innsbrook business community's safety board
 - Met with Central Virginia Hospitals' administrative leaders.
- **Chesapeake**
 - Health Director and Emergency Planner briefed Chesapeake City Department Heads during their May 3 meeting, provided FAQ handouts, CDC Business Checklists, and played the VDH Pandemic Flu DVD.
 - Emergency Planner briefed the Chesapeake Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) implications of Pandemic Influenza, Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI), and played the VDH Pandemic Flu DVD during their monthly meeting.
 - The City's Mass Disaster Planning Committee (MDCP), chaired by the Emergency Planner, meets every month and works on PanFlu issues. However, a Pandemic Flu Task Force is being created and separated from this committee to devote more emphasis on PanFlu and accommodate a larger group of stakeholders.
 - Working with the Chief Medical Officer of Chesapeake General Hospital, a cadre of private physicians was identified for participating in and providing their perspective to the City Pandemic Flu Task Force.
 - Working with the City Manager's office, a PanFlu package for City Council was prepared, which included information on the National Plan, its impact on Chesapeake, our Health Department/City Plans and initiatives, resources available and needed, etc..

- A copy of the VDH Pandemic Flu DVD was provided to the City's Public Communications Department for airing over City Cable Network Television.
- **Pittsylvania-Danville**
 - Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee Meeting: Our first full community stakeholders meeting included 30 representatives from the Danville Regional Medical Center, Public Health, Private Medicine, Public Works, Emergency Management, Regional HazMat, Danville Community College, Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute, Public Schools (administration and nursing), Pharmacy, Fire Department, Private Industry, Community Services, Community Health Center, Police, Social Services, Managed Care, Veterinary Medicine and the American Red Cross. With the Committee being co-chaired by District Public Health and the Hospital, introductory remarks were delivered by our District Epidemiologist, the Hospital CEO and the District Director, with later sections presented by the District Planner and Epidemiologist and the hospital Infection Control Practitioner. After viewing the VDH Pandemic Influenza video and receiving a global overview by Public Health and Hospital representatives, the group was divided into working sub-committees for the rest of the session. The subcommittees will meet in the future; and each will select two spokespersons to participate in the Public Health/Hospital periodic meetings. The collaborative approach to community health issues by District Public Health and Hospital personnel as illustrated above is a frequent and very effective method for doing business in our District.
 - Church Address by District Epidemiologist: Fifty church members received and responded enthusiastically to the PowerPoint presentation and VDH video. Emphasis was placed upon the fact that planning for pandemic influenza helps with preparing people for bioterrorist attacks and natural disasters. With a hurricane-experienced pastor from Florida at the helm, the church had already been putting funds aside for emergencies.
- **Mount Rogers**
 - All law enforcement agencies in the district have been provided training on isolation and quarantine.
 - PanFlu planning meeting conducted with Virginia Intermont College (with President, Dean of Students and Nurse).
 - PanFlu planning meeting conducted with Bank of Marion.
 - PanFlu planning meeting scheduled with several Operational Medical Directors for various EMS agencies in the District.
 - PanFlu presentations provided to 1/3 of all EMS agencies and 1/4 of all fire departments.
 - Pandemic flu planning meeting conducted with Wythe County School Board Staff.
- **Thomas Jefferson (Charlottesville)**
 - Community partner work groups continue meeting.
 - Behavioral health work group completes draft response plan.
 - District Planner held interview with local CBS TV station on local pandemic flu planning
- **Peninsula**
 - Six district staff members participated in the Eastern Region Community-based Emergency Response Seminar: Isolation and Quarantine held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center.

- Planning continues for the two community-focused tabletop exercises: June 15 in Williamsburg at the College of William & Mary and June 21 in Newport News at St. Michael Hall & Conference Center.
- Letters were sent to 14 nursing homes, 25 assisted living facilities and 2 adult day programs providing guidance and resources and offering assistance and consultation for their pandemic influenza planning and preparation efforts.
- **Lord Fairfax**
 - Winchester - Pandemic Influenza Summit: To be held at Shenandoah University's School of Pharmacy, agenda includes a panel discussion of cross border issues (due to proximity to 3 other states - PA, MD, WVA) and break out sessions.
 - Warren County - Avian Influenza Conference: This will be about a half day and be targeted to those who work with or are interested in the poultry industry and in domestic wild fowl.
 - Winchester "Focus on Flu": Our annual reportable disease breakfast update to our Infection Control Practitioners, local docs and other interested parties will be about flu reporting, sentinel physicians, and other ways data is collected and used
- **Crater**
 - Met with members of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors, County Manager, Public Safety Officer, Nursing Home Representative, and Community Health Center Representative to discuss planning and the creation of a County Pandemic Flu Planning Committee.
 - Central Region Directors met with regional hospital reps to discuss surge planning and the need for collaboration in plan development.
 - The Crater Health District will be conducting a Pandemic Flu Mass Vaccination exercise on Saturday, May 20th at the Petersburg High School. The exercise will test the response capabilities of the district as well as promote partnerships with the community. Participants in the event include Petersburg Fire/EMS, Department of Social Services, Petersburg Police and District 19 Mental Health Services.